

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

The specification has been amended to insert headings. Page 6, line 5 of the specification has been amended to recite "*less than 5MΩ.cm*" so as to better correspond to the original disclosure at page 4, line 14 and originally presented claim 6. There is thus no new matter being introduced by this amendment to the specification.

Claims 8-21 remain pending in the application. Claims 8-14 have been amended to improve the language in a non-narrowing fashion. Claims 15-21 are new and generally correspond to claims 8-14 without using "means" recitations (see also page 5 of the specification).

The acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 9-12 is noted with appreciation.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as not being enabled. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action points out an anomaly in the disclosure in regards to resistivity and kindly points out a correction at paragraph 5. The specification has been accordingly amended to uniformly set forth a resistivity of "*less than 5MΩ.cm*" so as to better correspond to the original

disclosure at page 4, line 14 and originally presented claim 6. Since this recitation was found in the original disclosure (twice), there is no issue pertaining to new matter.

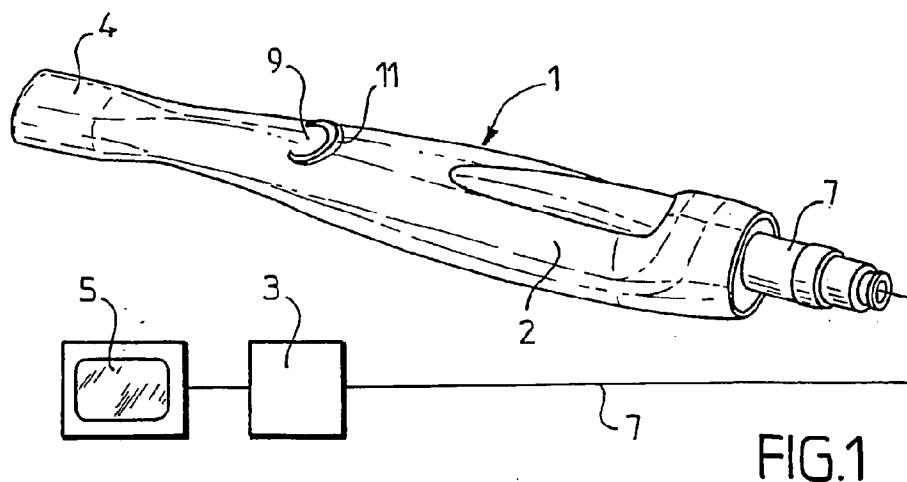
The claims are thus fully enabled by the disclosure.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (USP 5,771,067 A, hereinafter referred to as "Williams") in view of Squilla et al. (USP 7,139,016 B2, hereinafter referred to as "Squilla") in view of Miki et al. (USP 6,867,380 B2, hereinafter referred to as "Miki"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a camera for medical or dental use. This camera can be seen for example in Figures 1 and 2 of the application, which are reproduced below.



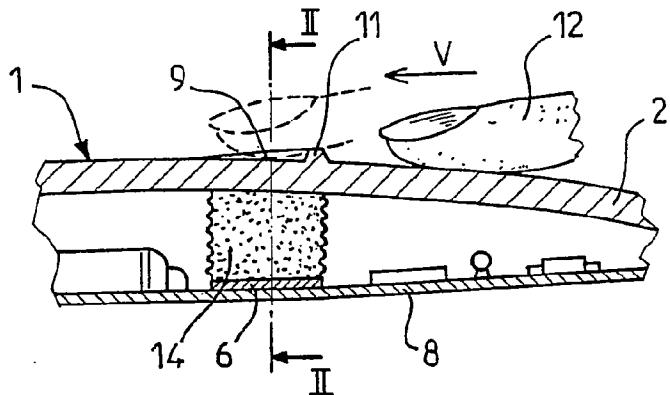


FIG.2

The present invention includes an elongated casing (2) adapted to be held in a user's hand and provided at its anterior end with a camera. The casing (2) includes a controller (6, 8) of a sensitive type adapted to "freeze" on a display (5) an image chosen by the user. The controller also includes a zone of detection (9) located on the casing (2) which is defined by a surface discontinuity, a hollow or a crest (11), where the casing (2) contains a sensor element (6) associated with an electronic piloting circuit (8) and an electrostatic foam element (14) of which one end is applied against the sensor element (6) and its opposite end is applied against a zone of an inner face of the casing (2) disposed plumb with the zone of detection (9). These aspects of the present invention are reflected in independent claim 8.

Williams pertains to a dental video camera. The Office Action refers to Figures 1 and 2 of Williams, which are reproduced below.

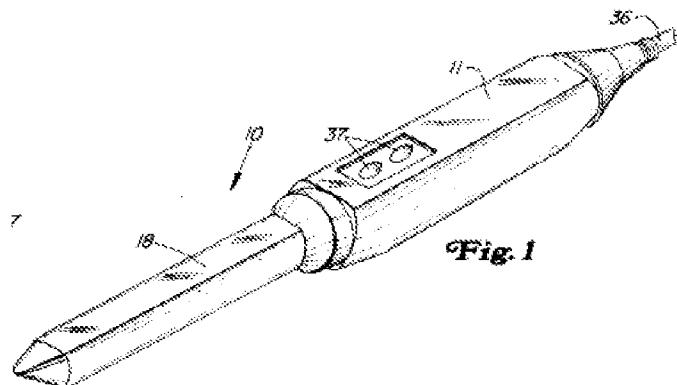


Fig. 1

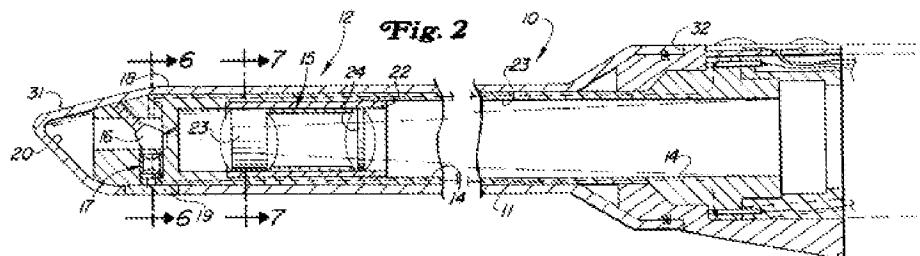


Fig. 2

Williams discloses mere command push buttons implemented on the casing. These buttons enable to connect the CCD camera to a printer, to a video processing device or to a recording device as disclosed at column 6, lines 33-36.

The buttons of Williams permit the operation of connectivity functions and do not control any actions on the flux of images or on the images themselves. Such buttons are not of the sensitive type.

The Office Action acknowledges the Williams does not expels that the control means is adapted to "freeze" on the display (5) an image chosen by the user. Squilla is then referred to. Figure 11 of Squilla is reproduced below.

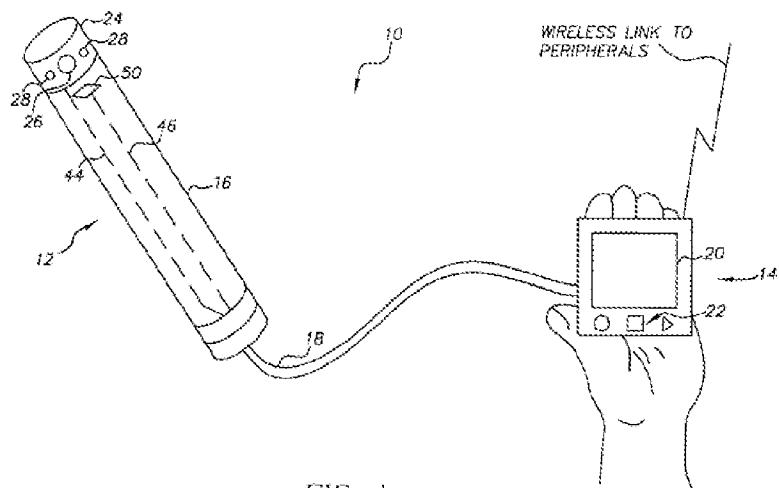


FIG. 1

Squilla uses an image processing module 14 distinct from the camera in order to control the freezing of an image. This module 14 includes a screen on which an image under acquisition is shown. The user freezes the image by a command while looking at the screen and by pushing a button situated near the screen. Two hands are necessary to control, on one hand, the camera 12 position and, on the other hand, to control the image freezing on the module 14.

Squilla discloses a classical way to implement an image processing, here an image freezing, through the use of a command implemented nearby the screen 20 on which the image is displayed.

The present invention does not concern the freezing function itself, which is in fact well known but the possibility to control such a image freezing by an action realized on the casing of the camera itself and not on a module dedicated to the image processing and separated from the camera.

One of skill in the art would thus not combine these disparate features of Williams and Squilla.

Even if Williams and Squilla were combined, the person of skill in the art would have completed the William's camera with a module implementing a screen and command buttons in order to implement the image processing, here an image freezing.

It is not seen how one of skill in the art, while knowing the William's camera with connectivity command buttons 37 would have had the idea, when consulting Squilla, of not only suppressing the module 14 and its screen of Squilla, but also changing the functions of buttons 37 for implementing an image processing function, here an image freezing.

Even if Williams and Squilla are both concerned with dental cameras, none of these documents describe or infer to displace an image freezing command away from a screen and even less on the object that enables the image acquisition itself. Thus, it is not correct to consider that implementing the image freezing command on the camera itself would be an obvious feature through the combination of Williams and Squilla. Such a feature is furthermore not disclosed or inferred in any of the applied art.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.
An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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